

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

8 (Previously Presented). A method comprising:  
receiving data packets on a plurality of channels of a receiver;  
determining whether the data packets are misaligned while the data packets are maintained in buffers corresponding to the plurality of channels;  
aligning the data packets if the data packets are misaligned; and  
holding the data packets until each of the buffers has a predefined depth.

9 (Original). The method of claim 8, wherein determining whether the data packets are misaligned comprises analyzing whether a predetermined value is received on each of the plurality of channels within a first time period.

10 (Original). The method of claim 8, further comprising transmitting the data packets in an aligned manner.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

12 (Original). The method of claim 8, further comprising realigning the data packets if the data packets become misaligned.

13 (Original). The method of claim 8, wherein the data packets are byte striped.

14 (Previously Presented). An apparatus comprising:  
buffers to store data packets from a plurality of channels; and  
a state machine coupled to the buffers to deskew the data packets while the data packets are stored in the buffers, and to hold the data packets until each of the buffers has a predefined depth.

15 (Original). The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the state machine is adapted to hold the data packets in the buffers until a predetermined character is present in each of the buffers.

16 (Original). The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a counter to count cycles occurring after receipt of a first data packet having the predetermined character.

17 (Original). The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of state machines, each corresponding to one of the plurality of channels.

18 (Original). The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data packets comprise InfiniBand data packets.

Claims 19-21 (Canceled).

22 (Previously Presented). A system comprising:  
a switch fabric;  
a plurality of buffers coupled to the switch fabric to receive data packets from a plurality of channels; and  
a state machine coupled to the plurality of buffers to deskew the data packets while the data packets are received in the plurality of buffers and to hold the data packets until each of the buffers has a predefined depth.

23 (Original). The system of claim 22, further comprising a host channel adapter including the plurality of buffers.

24 (Original). The system of claim 23, wherein the host channel adapter further includes a counter to count cycles occurring after receipt of a first data packet having a predetermined character.

25 (Original). The system of claim 22, wherein the switch fabric comprises an InfiniBand switch fabric.